



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

January 20, 1969

COPY

Memorandum

To: Heads of Bureaus and Offices

From: Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Reviews of roadless areas and roadless islands under
the 1964 Wilderness Act

Secretarial Order No. 2893 dated February 17, 1966, delegated authority, established procedures, and provided coordination of reviews of roadless areas and roadless islands within the National Park System and other natural wildlife refuges and game ranges under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964.

Interpretations and application of that Order have delayed reviews and may hinder their completion in compliance with the schedules and deadlines contained in section 3 (c) of the Act.

Compliance with provisions of the attached Order will fully satisfy requirements of the Wilderness Act. Therefore, the attached Order revokes and supersedes Order No. 2893 and clarifies delegations of authority, procedures, and coordination of reviews of roadless areas and roadless islands under the applicable provisions of the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

/signed/

Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Enclosure

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington

January 20, 1969

Copy

ORDER NO. 2920

Subject: Reviews of Roadless Areas and Roadless Islands under the
Wilderness Act

Sec. 1 Purpose. The purpose of this Order is to delegate authority, establish procedures, and provide for coordination of reviews of roadless areas and roadless islands under the provisions of the Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), referred to in this Order as the Act, and regulations pertaining thereto (43 CFR Part 19).

Sec. 2 Policy and procedure. Certain policies and practices with respect to wilderness preservation are set forth in 43 CFR, Part 19.

Sec. 3 Delegation. (a) The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources may exercise the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to:

(1) Approve proposed recommendations concerning the suitability or nonsuitability of roadless areas or roadless islands for preservation as wilderness.

(2) Authorize the publication of notices of public hearings on proposed recommendations.

(3) Appoint a qualified officer of the Department to hold a public hearing or hearings on such proposed recommendations.

(b) The authority granted in paragraph (a) of this section may not be redelegated.

(c) Final action within the Office of the Secretary on recommendations of bureaus and other recommendations concerning the suitability or nonsuitability of roadless areas and islands for preservation as wilderness involves interrelationships between program areas and departments and is considered of major policy significance. Accordingly, proposed recommendations to the President under the Act shall be forwarded to the Secretary for approval.

Sec. 4 Reviews within the National Park System. (a) The National Park Service shall perform such work as is necessary to:

(1) Review every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more that was in the National Park System on September 3, 1964.

(2) Submit a report of such review and proposed recommendation as to suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

(3) Facilitate issuance of public information prior to public hearings and the reconsideration of the suitability or nonsuitability of the areas for preservation as wilderness after public views and the views of State and local officials have been received.

(4) Submit proposed recommendations for transmittal to the President.

(b) Each report of review shall identify any roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more which is considered not suitable for preservation as wilderness because of future requirements for historic preservation, interpretation, rights-of-way, use facilities, administrative installations, or other resource use of nonwilderness nature.

Sec. 5 Reviews within the National Wildlife Refuge System. (a) The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife shall perform such work as is necessary to:

(1) Review every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more and every roadless island regardless of size that was in a national wildlife refuge or game range on September 3, 1964.

(2) Submit a report of such review and proposed recommendation as to suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

(3) Facilitate issuance of public information prior to public hearings and the reconsideration of the suitability or nonsuitability of the areas for preservation as wilderness after public views and the views of State and local officials have been received.

(4) Submit proposed recommendations for transmittal to the President.

(b) Each report of review shall identify any roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more or any roadless island which is considered not suitable for preservation as wilderness because of future requirements for rights-of-way, use facilities, conservation structures, administrative installations, or other resource use of nonwilderness nature.

Sec. 6 Maps and reports. (a) Lines delineating areas considered suitable for preservation as wilderness **should** be drawn so far as possible in a manner that will permit identification on the ground. Roadless areas within units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and units of the National Park System shall be identified by reference to the public land surveys and protractations thereof where available and practicable.

(b) Maps and reports shall be compiled in a form that can be easily duplicated for public distribution.

(c) Maps and reports released before final action shall be plainly marked "Preliminary - Subject to Change."

Sec. 7 Coordination. (a) The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources shall provide staff coordination of reviews under the Act, including liaison with the headquarters offices of other Federal departments.

(b) The Regional Coordinators shall aid inter-bureau coordination of field activities under the Act, including liaison with field offices of other Federal departments and State and local governments.

(c) The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation shall aid coordination of outdoor recreation aspects of reviews under the Act, with special regard to (1) relationships to inventories of outdoor recreation needs and resources; (2) the system for classification of outdoor recreation resources; (3) comprehensive outdoor recreation plans; (4) research relating to outdoor recreation; and (5) liaison with outdoor recreation agencies and organizations.

Sec. 8 Revocation. This Order revokes and supersedes Order No. 2893, dated February 17, 1966.

/signed/

Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior